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Application No. 09/877,371

Amendment D

REMARKS

Responsive to the office action mailed July 12, 2004, claims 9-10, 13, 18, 20 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 16 and 19 were previously canceled. Thus, thirteen (13) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 1, 3-8, 11-12, 14-15, 17 and 21, all of which are indicated as being allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1, 3-8, 11-12, 14-15, 17 and 21 is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

1. Applicants thank the Examiner for returning an initialed copy of the recent IDSs filed June 25, 2004. However, Applicants request that the Examiner consider the references provided in the electronic IDS filed May 3, 2004 (EFS ID: 60308) and provide Applicants with an initialed copy indicating that the references were considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

2. Claims 9, 10, 13, 18, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,591,758 (Barth et al). Claims 9-10, 13, 18, 20 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, it is submitted that the rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 21 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

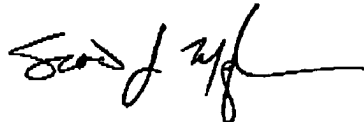
By way of this amendment, Applicants have placed all pending claims in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is

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respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 17, 2004



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